

TUTORING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Tutorat par les pairs en anglais langue seconde



Question Formation

Tutor annotated lesson



2022

Québec 

STEP 1: Assessment

- What do you know about the differences between a “be” question (e.g., “**What is your favourite colour?**”) and an auxiliary question (e.g., “**What colour did you paint your room?**”)
- What do you know about the difference between a yes/no question (e.g., “**Do you like to do sports?**”) and an information question (e.g., “**What is your favourite sport?**”)

Useful Expressions

- How do you say _____ in English?
- How do you say _____ in French?

STEP 2: Theory

- Make questions to go with the answers in **bold**. If necessary, refer to the *Step-by-Step Question Formation link*. Place the words under the appropriate heading.

TIP

Auxiliary Questions

Tense	Question	Auxiliary	Subject	Verb	Answer
Simple Present	Where	does	he	work	He works at home.
Present Progressive	Where	is	he	working	He is working at home.
Simple past	Where	did	he	work	He worked at home.
Future	Where	will	he	work	He will work at home.

Be Questions

Tense	Question	Verb “be”	Subject	Answer
Simple Present	Where	is	he	He is at home.
Simple Past	XXXX	Was	he	Yes, he was at home.

STEP 3: Controlled and Communicative Exercises

EXERCISE 1: Make questions to go with the highlighted answers and then, respond to your tutor's prompts.

1. *What time does he eat dinner* ?

He eats dinner **at six o'clock**.

- Ask me what time I usually eat dinner.

2. *What time is he eating dinner* ?

He is eating dinner **now**.

- Ask me if I am eating dinner now.

3. *What time did he eat dinner last night* ?

He ate dinner **at six o'clock** last night.

- Ask me what time I ate dinner last night.

4. *What time will he eat dinner tomorrow* ?

He will eat dinner **at six o'clock** tomorrow.

- Ask me what time I will eat dinner.

5. *Where was he at six o'clock yesterday* ?

He was **at home** at six o'clock yesterday.

- Ask me where I was at six o'clock yesterday.

6. *Is it six o'clock* ?

No, it isn't six o'clock.

- Ask me what time it is.

7. *How often does he order food for delivery* ?

He **rarely** orders food for delivery.

- Ask me how often I order food for delivery.

8. *How long did he wait for* ?

He waited for **50 minutes**.

- Ask me how long it takes for a pizza delivery at my house.

9. *How much does a sub cost at Subway* ?

A six-inch sub costs **\$7.84** at Subway.

- Ask me how often I go to Subway.



EXERCISE 2: Form questions to go with the highlighted answers to complete the dialogue.
Then respond to your tutor's prompts.

1. The Best Smoked Meat Dialogue

A: *What are you eating* ?

B: I am eating a **smoked meat sandwich**.

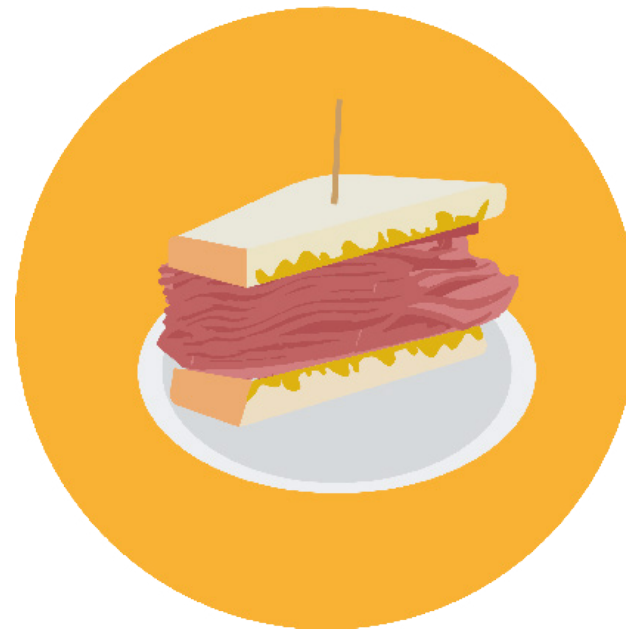
A: *Where did you get it* ?

B: I got it **from Schwartz's**.

A: *Does Schwartz's serve salads* ?

B: **No**, Schwartz's doesn't serve salads.

- Ask me how often I go to Schwartz's.
- Ask me where it is.
- Ask me where my mother goes for smoked meat.
- When was the last time you went to Schwartz's?
- What restaurant do you think serves the best-smoked meat sandwiches?



2. The Best Poutine Dialogue

A: *Where did you go last night* ?

B: I went to **La Banquise** last night.

A: Oh, I heard about that place. It is supposed to be the best place to get poutine. *Was it expensive* ?

B: **No**, it wasn't expensive.

A: *Does La Banquise deliver* ?

B: **No**, La Banquise doesn't deliver.

A: Too bad. Next time, I am in the area I will go.

- Ask me if I know the restaurant La Banquise.
- Ask me where I went for my last poutine.
- Ask me if it was good.
- Did you ever go to La Banquise?
- What restaurant do you think serves the best poutine?



3. The Best Bowls Dialogue

A: I will probably go out to dinner tonight.

B: *Where will you go* ?

A: I will go **to Copper Branch**.

B: *Is it a vegetarian restaurant* ?

A: **Yes**, it's a vegetarian restaurant. It has the best salads.

- Ask me if I know the restaurant Copper Branch.
- Ask me if I am a vegetarian.
- Ask me where I go for vegetarian food.
- How often do you order a bowl? Where?
- What restaurant do you think serves the best bowls?



STEP 4: Production task

EXERCISE 3: Take turns asking questions and discussing the following topics. Use as many different question words for each topic as possible.

- the best or worst restaurant experience (past tense)
- a typical restaurant experience (simple present tense)
- a future restaurant experience (future tense)

Question words

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What• Where• When• Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How• Why• How many	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How often• How long• How much
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STEP 5: Final Review

- What new words did you learn today?
- Make questions to go with the answers in **bold**.

Tutor Note

- Ask, "how do you say" questions with the words the tutee doesn't mention.
- **Only** if necessary, review the question forms.

Be Questions

Tense	Question	Verb "be"	Subject	Answer
Simple Present	Where	are	you	I am in Montreal .
Simple Past	XXXX	Were	you	I was in Montreal .

Auxiliary Questions

Tense	Question	Auxiliary	Subject	Verb	Answer
Simple Present	Where	do	you	live?	I live in Montreal .
Present Progressive	Where	are	you	living?	I am living in Montreal .
Simple past	Where	did	he	live?	He lived in Montreal .
Future	Where	will	he	live?	He will live in Montreal .

Important

- Write down the words you learned today and study them.

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Step by Step Question Formation Chart

Step by Step Questions

1. Is it an **auxiliary** question or a **be** question?
 - Look at the **main verb in the answer** to find out.
2. What is the verb tense?
3. Is it a **yes/no** question or an **information** question?
 - Now, use the appropriate chart to help you.

Auxiliary Questions: The main verb in the answer is NOT the verb “be.”
(e.g., He **likes** dogs.)

Be Questions: The main verb in the answer is “be.”
(e.g., Yes, he **is** at home.)

TIP

Auxiliary Questions

Tense	Question	Auxiliary	Subject	Verb	Rest of Sentence
Simple Present		do does		base form (no - s, ed, etc.)	
Present Progressive		am are is		verb-ing	
Simple Past		did		base form	
Future		will		base form	
		am is are		going to +base form	
Modals		can could may		base form	
		should must			

Be Questions

Tense	Question	Verb be	Subject	Rest of Sentence
Simple Present		am are is		
Simple Past		was were		

Be	
Present	Past
I am	I was
You are	You were
She/He/It is	She/He/It was
We are	We were
They are	They were

Do	
Present	
I	do
You	do
He/She/It	does
We	do
They	do